#27/

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Eugenio A. Cefali

Application No.: 08/962,421 Confirmation No.:

Filed

: October 31, 1997 (RCE filed concurrently

herewith

For

: INTERMEDIATE RELEASE NICOTINIC ACID

COMPOSITIONS FOR TREATING HYPERLIPIDEMIA WHICH EXHIBIT AN IN VIVO STAIR-STEPPED

ABSORPTION CURVE

Group

: 1615

Examiner : James M. Spear

RECEIVED

Hon. Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 2327

Arlington, Virginia 22202

JAN 1 6 2003

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Box RCE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to continuing examination of the application in its merits, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, under "Related Patent Applications" please replace the paragraph with the following:1

An Appendix of Amendments, showing changes to the specification, is attached. In the Appendix, additions and deletions are indicated by underscore and brackets, respectively.